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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Austin's Buttermilk Creek Water Quality Improvement Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Austin, Texas, located at 301 West Second Street, Austin TX 78701.

The funding would be used to improve water quality in Buttermilk Creek and the broader Walnut Creek watershed through stormwater control measures including detention ponds, protection of exposed and deteriorating wastewater infrastructure with a record of Sanitary Sewer Overflows, and restoration of streambank stability and riparian habitat using nature-based solutions, including multiple rain gardens and bioswale with native landscaping, which will improve infiltration and pollutant load.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it would provide community health and safety benefits through improved water quality, streambank stabilization, pedestrian bridge maintenance and park enhancements. All three segments of Buttermilk Creek frequently rank in the top twenty poorest water quality scores among all creeks in the City of Austin. Buttermilk Creek contributes flow to Walnut Creek, an impaired water body under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). This project would serve an area that has historically been home to Austin's most vulnerable and underserved population. Decades of public neglect have resulted in failing infrastructure and declining ecology.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett